

Message Text

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12

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 /026 W

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P 280933Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7437

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DEPT PASS OPIC FOR THOMAS SEDLAR, VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJ: OPIC REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON THAILAND FOR ANNUAL REPORT

1. PRESIDENT MAYS' JAN 2 LETTER TO AMBASSADOR NOT RECEIVED
UNTIL JAN 26. REGRET DELAY. APOINTMENT IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT
WITH BOARD OF INVESTMENT SECRETARY GENERAL SOMPORN TO DISCUSS
TIMING AND OTHER DETAILS OF REQUEST. SOMPORN UNFORTUNATELY
OUT OF CITY UNTIL END OF WEEK, BUT EMBOFF MET JAN 28 WITH
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL DECHA AND REVIEWED OPIC REQUEST WITH
HIM.

2. DECHA SAID HE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT IN SOMPORN'S ABSENCE
BUT WILL BRING MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY ON HIS
RETURN, AND INFORM EMBASSY OF HIS REACTION. IN VIEW OF
OPIC'S NEED FOR EARLY REPLY, DECHA SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE
FASTER TO GET APPROVED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO CHAIRMAN OF
BOI (WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF INDUSTRY) SINCE BOI'S CHANNELS
TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS
BEFORE PM'S APPROVAL COULD BE EXPECTED. (IF OPIC REQUIRES STATE-
MENT FROM CHIEF OF STATE, HE THOUGHT, AND WE AGREE, PM WOULD
BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN ACTUAL CHIEF OF STATE, H.M. THE KING.)
HE SAID THAT FOR REASONS OF PRESTIGE SOMPORN MIGHT NEVERTHE-
LESS WISH TO HAVE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO PM RATHER THAN BOI
CHAIRMAN.

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3. EMBOFF ALSO MENTIONED QUESTION OF WHETHER TIMING WAS

PROFITIOUS FOR THAILAND IN VIEW CURRENT UNCERTAIN INVESTMENT CLIMATE; DECHA SAID AGAIN THIS WOULD BE FOR SOMPORN TO DECIDE BUT IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT HE HIMSELF FELT PROMOTIONAL BENEFITS OF FEATURE ARTICLE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE AT THIS TIME.

4. DECHA SAID IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL WHEN HE TALKS TO SOMPORN IF HE COULD KNOW (A) WHETHER OPIC COULD WAIT APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS FOR DESPATCH OF REQUESTED MATERIALS, B) IN THE EVENT THIS DELAY WOULD BE TOO LONG, AND THAILAND WOULD THUS HAVE TO MISS FY 76 ISSUE OF ANNUAL REPORT, WHETHER THAILAND COULD EXPECT TO BE INCLUDED IN FY 77 REPORT NEXT YEAR, AND (C) WHETHER STATEMENT FROM BOI CHAIRMAN WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO OPIC. OPIC'S REACTION WOULD BE APPRECIATED ASAP.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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